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The Tentacles of Religion

Many of us find our way to India hoping to find some missing part of ourselves, some guidance or some meaningful direction. It doesn't take long to realize that India is a spiritual supermarket with a plentitude of religions, cults, sects, gurus and other various groups, sure to make navigating an extremely difficult task. This article has been designed to help you navigate through this jungle, encouraging you to continue challenging whatever or whoever you find, so as to prevent you from buying tinsel while looking for gold. Unless we are very careful, the tentacles of religion can easily engulf us in many subtle and sneaky ways. Here we are encouraging you to be 100% impartial while on your journey of self-discovery, so that your determination is not shaken by the beliefs of others.

How to test for real gold

The acid test of the real gold is very easy. If one abides within oneself 24 hours a day, without being distracted or attracted to any stimuli, gratification, feelings and experiences, that very person is real gold. A sure test is whether or not they practice what they preach. You cannot claim that you are free when you are in prison yourself. A person living with security and protection, while preaching democracy, human rights or spiritual freedom, is clearly not living the words. If you extend this very idea to religion you will be able to appreciate the camouflage of this dangerous addiction called religion.

So, naturally the question arises, what makes a religion?

There are a thousand and one factors and variables that give rise to the mask called religion. You cannot make the Neem sweet by covering it with honey. So if you know how to dissect and differentiate between the sweet and the bitter, maybe you will understand the gimmicks of the human mind, society and the by-product of it; religion. When we put little nitric acid on the real gold, defilements such as copper, silver, aluminum etc. begin to oxidize, and slowly the tiny gold begins to glow.

Person Profile

- 1) People with herd mentality (99% of the world population strive to become part of this psychic makeup)
- 2) Ego confirming that you are the most intelligent, wise, fortunate, that you really understand everything and all others are stupid, useless, and hopeless. Inferiority and superiority complex.
- 3) Irresistible hunger and appetite for blind beliefs (taken for granted attitudes)
- 4) Belief that you are not enough. A sense of poverty, guilt, loneliness, disability and willingness to hold on to a crutch.
- 5) Feeling of being special or uncommon.
- 6) Feelings of jealousy, perhaps hatred and prejudice.
- 7) A big space in your mind to store popular myths, blind faiths, beliefs, intellectual ideas and ideologies.
- 8) You have to be a little racist.
- 9) Big thirst for identities, levels, status, hierarchy and projections.
- 10) You love to 'become' something or someone.

Believing the belief IS the mind.

Establishment Profile:

- 1) **Icons** -- Logos, symbols, gestures, pictures, sculptures, architecture, idols, paintings, artifacts (cross, image of Buddha, mosque, rosary, and other religious cosmetics) Mythical, legendary, historical and present persons and personalities (Christ, Buddha, Krishna, Moses, Muhammad and so on)
- 2) **Books** -- A book or a set of books, considered the source of final wisdom, beyond which no one can go. (Bible, Koran, Tripitak, Bhagavad Gita, Torah)

3) **The Intermediaries** -- A group of people who have already sold their conscience at the altar of their belief, known under different names, levels, identities, and designations. These groups are also known as divine incarnations, priests (hereditary and professional). They retain the sovereign right to interpret icons, books, ethics, values, morals, ideas, concepts, etc. The follower or the devoted believer has to have the tremendous blind faith that these groups of people are the middlemen between followers and the ultimate, i.e. between themselves and God, Allah, Buddhahood, Krishnahood, Enlightenment, Liberation, Freedom etc. The salesmen are branded in different trademarks such as lamas, priests, 'divine incarnations', brahmins, popes, fathers, archbishops, mullahs, avatars (incarnations), rabbis, shamans, channelers (mediums), divine representatives, abbots, sect and cult founders and leaders, politicians, intellectual wizards, sportsmen, sexual heroes and heroines, smugglers, community leaders, organic, narcotic and psychedelic drug gang-leaders, fanatics, fundamentalists, extremists, magicians, mesmerists, sorcerers, hypnotists, psychologists, healers, masseurs, different kinds of martial art practitioners, and many more.

4) **The Herds** -- Mobism or groupism is a dangerous hunting energy among believers that they have the right thing, the real gold in their possession. Maybe in reality what they have is a bunch of horrible blind beliefs, dogmas, concepts, ideas, ideologies, feelings, or good or bad experiences, such as cultural, linguistic, traditional, geophysical, legendary, mythical, similes, metaphors, fashion, masks and make-ups, colours, complexions, food habits, addictions, books, political or economic isms, intellectualism, clothes, music, sex, education, blood groups, gender, commerce, ages, philosophy, fabricated sciences, fear, protection, security, collective ego, collective prejudice, collective habits, books on history, fantasy and many other such things, creating a fertile ground for growing thick, blind beliefs, shared by people of cattle breeding mentality. Without herd mentality religions will simply disappear from the face of the mother planet.

5) **The Slaughterhouse** -- there must be a nursery or breeding ground where in the name of selling the truth, these dead ideas are being cultivated and nourished into the minds of thirsty herds. These breeding grounds are known in different ways, cultures, communities, and geographical areas, such as church, gompa, pagoda, mosque, chapel, convent, temple, monastery, synagogue, workshop, clinic, institution, center, sweat-lodge, etc. In these places, the herds are tamed to suit the covert and overt pursuits and motives of the intermediaries (middlemen). These units act as large scale and small scale standardizing and manufacturing units where the invaluable human conscience is being skillfully slaughtered with tremendous pride and celebration.

6) **The Glorification** -- When you tamper with the conscience of a human being, you have to replace it with some rubbish called glorification. The biggest examples are the crusade in Europe, the conversions in colonial times and the Jihad in Medieval times, where the murdering of nonbelievers was considered to be the highest spiritual act that a believer could achieve in a lifetime. Perhaps history has not yet forgotten the cruel slogan that used to echo in the American subcontinent, south and north, "Who is the best Indian? A dead Indian."

7) **The Brainwashing** -- No religion has ever continued to survive if it didn't adopt effective methods and tools of brainwashing. Please remember that no religion will exist if they do not do this. To do this skillfully with total satisfaction, you need a place where you bring the group or individual, applying different communication methods like new linguistics, rebirthing, healing, hypnotism, magic, history, fabricated science, religions, metaphors, Sunday schools, adopting young children or families into the sect, cult or religion, participation in rituals, musical sessions, prayers, carols, mass, books, phrases, slogans, arts, advertisements, sports, multimedia exhibits, pictures, clothes, tattoos, growing nails, beards, hairs, piercing, animal sacrifice, addictive poisons, sedative drugs, tribal euphoria, sex, pornography, philosophies, psychological therapies, psychic therapies, and so on and so forth.

8) **The Rare** -- Religions are also created using the human obsession for rare ideas and objects. We give millions of dollars for a piece of stone called diamond, because it is rare, and so also many religions have been born out of these kinds of concepts, ideas, rituals and so on.

9) **The Popular** (The Mass-hysteria) -- When you are in a movie hall or a theatre hall, and one or two people go towards the toilet, you will very soon find more people suddenly running to the toilet. This is biological. If you impartially look at the psychological response of social beings, you will be able to see it very clearly. If anything for whatever reason becomes popular, you will find everybody running for it. Exactly the same thing

happens with cults, sects or religions. This mass-hysteria comes from the collective ignorance of 'I don't want to dissect or examine why I want to be a part of the mass-mesmerism'. Popularity or mass-hysteria can be inflicted on the mind very easily by using different mass-media techniques, such as books, journals, newspapers, etc.

10) **The Conversion** -- Conversion is the cancer of religion. It may sound very rude, or bias, but when you really examine the entire process of conversion adopted by most of the religions and sex-cults, old or new, it will strike you in the face. Conversion is a camouflaged weapon that systematically, with all sophistication, kills your inborn right for freedom. Once you become a convert of any concept, idea, ideology, sect, cult or religion, old or new, you are nothing more than a cloned cattle, or at least your mind is cloned to fit into something that has been transported into your personality-makeup. Political ideologies more or less lead to the same place.

11) **The Education** -- Almost all preachers in all religions of the world, when they want to sell their ideas and blind beliefs, try to use glorified words, like calling it teaching, guide, contact point, message or friend. They disguise their visionary, strict preaching in various words and forms, like preaching through entertainment, paints, parents, schoolteachers, or sporting grounds. Many hardcore religions use education and propaganda as a weapon to brainwash people and create a kind of confidence or false trust. But what they are preaching or helping you to experience? They claim it is not religion, but many fundamentalist religions use philosophical ideas to convince and convert people, saying this is not a religion, but just another philosophy. Whether feudalistic, theocratic, theological, tribalistic, primitive, prophetic, animistic, philosophical, or theosophical people trying to open both formal and informal schools, they simply, in a gross or subtle way, all use modern education and techniques to brainwash the victims called students of this school or that institution.

12) **Cloning the mind at home** -- Although the preachers of democracy and human rights all over the world make noise about the abuse of human rights by different governments and nations, nobody is raising any voice against this centuries-old sickness of religion. Parents take the right over the child, brainwashing him or her by saying "You are a Christian" or "You are a Buddhist, Muslim, Jew," etc. This is a blatant abuse of the human rights of children. Parents have no right whatsoever on a minor who doesn't have an idea of what religion is all about. All children should be free to, at least after the age of 18 or 21, to embrace any confirmed religion. Do we really need to stamp our children with the ideas of the parents? Is this not a social, moral and political abuse when they are highly vulnerable and totally dependent on parents and society? Will mankind awaken from the deep slumber, and free the innocent children of the future from the shackles of parental missionaries?

13) **Festivals** -- Most of the religions of the world use different community and family festivals to perpetuate their beliefs. More and more crowds are drawn into various festivals, used as a kind of occasion or celebration, to initiate their blind beliefs and religious dogmas in a very non-conventional way. The preachers of different religions either actively or passively try their best to encourage vulnerable individuals to accept their ideas and ideologies, blind beliefs, dogmas and religions.

14) **Cruel Compassion** -- Compassion is a caterpillar that is disguised as a softhearted butterfly. All over the world we know what is popularly called American aid (compassion). All the so-called compassionate American governments and multinational companies are always out there to help people in poor countries. But, if any country accepts this aid, they have to sell out their sovereignty to be operated by the White House or Pentagon. In the same manner almost all religions, sects, cults, new and old, want to serve the needy, neglected, sick, deprived victims of social political situations. Surprisingly, many religions use compassion as a potent weapon to lure and convert tormented minds coming from other religions. Compassion is like a chemical bomb that easily entraps spineless people. If you want to verify how compassion is abused openly all over the world you won't have to go far. Just go to a nearby church, mosque or a center of Missionary Charity. Once you approach them for a little help, or you enter into their organization as a volunteer, or even just an ordinary visitor, you will be presented with a cross, Koran, bible or even tika, bell and dorje.

15) **Uniform** -- If you've ever been to any areas where different nomadic tribes live with their cattle, you will find that they either put some bells round the neck of the cattle, some mark on the body of the cattle, or ornaments and colours to create the identity that this particular cattle belongs to this particular nomadic

pasture. The same primitive, tribal, self-enclosed and conformist mobism has found its way into the modern world in the form of religious or military uniforms. It inflates the ego, helping you to make sure that you are the fortunate one and those who don't wear the uniform are declared misguided or even lost. Depending on your status and position, like in military, these uniforms can also change. Uniforms help you to hold on to your segregated identity that divides humanity in the name of truth.

16) **The Hierarchies** -- You may have forgotten the name of your parents, but very few people forget the most popular mantra of the modern world: "It takes a Coke to quench your thirst". It is easy to understand how a multinational profiteering organization functions internally. The commercial hierarchy is the engine and sole owner of the inter-commercial activities and its profit. If you stretch the same idea without bias, you will also find religions, cults and sects, new and old, have the same elaborate hierarchical structure. In the bottom of the ladder are the laymen (the people of herd mentality), next comes the local or immediate, professional priests or monks. In the middle is the regional commander, such as bishops and fathers, abbots and lamas. Then comes the national, like a Cardinal, archbishop, bhikku, senior lama and bantee. Then finally, depending on the structure of the hierarchy, the highest person could be like Pope, Archbishop, Ayatollah, Dalai Lama, Traditional Heads of the sect, Tribal Chieftains, and so on.

17) **The Copycats** -- Perhaps you are very much aware of cocktail-parties. A cocktail is a mixture of many borrowed ideas, digested concepts and many antithetical ideologies and philosophies. Some religious groups and their think-tanks are busy day and night copying different vocabularies, ideas, concepts, methods, metaphors, and terminologies. Now, millions of books are being manufactured and cooked, fabricated every day to claim how nice, beautiful and smart these religions, sects and cults are. This is an effective way to repaint the ugly faces of an already out-of-fashion world of religion. This helps them to successfully hide their cancerous wounds. Amazingly enough, when they copy or borrow these ideas, they never give any credit to the source from where they copied it. Ironically they are the preachers of truth, values, and ethics.

18) **The Power** -- The human mind in society is the helpless by-product of power. Religions, sects and cults, are the integral parts of herd mentality. Professor Lasky says, "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely". If you open the blood stained pages of the history of human civilization, you will find that the largest number of invaluable human lives have been sacrificed on the altar of religions, sects and cults, old or new. If you look at the recent history of colonialism, fascism, nazism, apartheid, visionarism, jihad, inter-religions, and anti-Semitism, you will find that human beings are killing each other like they kill flies, only to proclaim that "I am right". Please remember here that 'when two people are right, only then they fight'. Religion, sects and cults, will never be free from power. A corridor of power is the cradle of religion. Not a single religion in the world has attained popularity without a direct or indirect support of people in power. Besides the accepted religions of history, political isms are assuming the status of religion. It is very difficult to draw a bottom line between religion, political isms and the people in power. They need each other for their survival. Only when one party finds that the other one is becoming more powerful, they try to either exert control or eliminate the other one. They use and abuse each other for their mutual advantage.

19) **The Propaganda** -- If anybody realizes the massive potential of communication, it is perhaps the veterans of religion, those who not only understood it, but invented the means and methods to propagate and spread their ideas from the centers to the periphery (the masses and mobs). With the progress of time, mass communication, systems, principles and technologies have undergone astronomical changes. Hence it is a big boon for religious propagandists to harness new systems of communication and mass media to their maximum advantage. That is why all religions, sects and cults produce huge amount of books, literatures photographs, symbols and icons, audio and video materials, internet web-sites, radios, satellite-tvs and other systems. All these systems are busy 24 hours a day, all over the world, blasting at the people to come and join, "Here is the truth, Here is the salvation".

20) **The Money** -- Where there is money, there is mind. He who holds the jackpot, controls not only the mind of society, but also the nerves and blood of the people. This was understood by all religions, sects and cults, 1000 years ago. Either people of religion get into power themselves, or they become twin brothers of the powers that be. It's an open secret. Either you have power and try to get into the jackpot, or you have the jackpot and buy the power. So, the role of muscle power and money power always goes hand in hand. All of the world's religious hierarchies and monasteries are the richest, although many talk against amassing wealth, preaching the simple life. If you look at their leaders, you will find a blatantly hedonistic way of living.

Most of the religions, cults and sects, use money to convert new entrances to their beliefs. Money is the bedrock on which the edifice of religion is built upon. Without money, there is no religion.

21) **The Sex** -- Among the destruction of the mind and senses, is the irresistible attraction to sex. Centuries ago, religious people understood the massive potential of sex as a vital weapon for perpetuating and expanding religion. For example, look at the panchakarma, vamachari, vagrayani, where practicing sex with consorts (tesu) was considered the supersonic way to enlightenment. Similarly, if you look at different religions of the world, you will find that sex is misused and abused thoroughly for the up-keep and expansion of the respective religion, sect and cult, old or new.

22) **Crime** -- It is hard to find any religion, sect or cult in the world that is free from sneakiness. Almost all of them teach and preach the converts to lead their life in a particular way, while themselves they lead it quite the opposite. To upkeep their painted images in the society among the followers, they try their best to manipulate all possible sources to prove that they are great. Hence, almost all religions, sects and cults, old or new, indulge in crimes of all types and natures, i.e. emotional, social, economic, physical, and ethical crimes. And it is always the people on the bottom of the pyramid who will suffer and be blamed, while the leaders and the powerful get away with it.

23) **Indulgence** -- Although most religions, sects and cults invariably preach the leading of a simple and harmonious way of living. But since the inception of religions, cults and sects, it is always the hierarchy that breaks the rules they preach, taking advantage of the resources that are supplied by their followers. They are like parasites on their followers, popularly called children, brothers, sisters, comrades.

24) **War** -- Any authentic study on how war originates will reveal, directly and indirectly, that religion plays a fundamental role in fomenting the psychosis of war. Not only do religions, sects and cults ignite war, but they uphold it. Look at Northern Ireland (Protestants vs. Catholics), Israel (Jews vs. Muslims), Tibet (Buddhism vs. Communism), Spain (Basks vs. Spaniards), Yugoslavia (Muslims vs. Christians), Sri Lanka (Tamil vs. Singalese) Burma (Karen vs. Buddhists), Iran vs. Iraq (Sunni vs. Shia), Afghanistan (Mohajid vs. Sunni), within the Tibetan refugee community (Sukhden sect vs. Geluk sect) and so on. Massive numbers of human beings have been murdered mercilessly in the name of religions, sects and cults, fighting for "truth and compassion".

25) **Drugs and addictions** -- Unfortunately, if you go on searching for a religion, sect or cult, old or new, it will be hard to find any single one of them being free from addictions. Addictions are skillfully used by religions to recruit new converts and keep the old ones, so that the empire of religion does not lose its influence and incomes. Anyone with a broad conscience is a threat towards the established structure of religion, so they use addictive properties to eliminate the sensibility of the devotees. Addictive properties are also used to give a good time to the followers and believers so that they won't jump out of the net. Invariably so-called 'holy places' are successfully used as smuggling-centers. Addictive properties that have been abused by religions are not restricted to one or two different kinds. Practitioners of different religions use almost all drugs, depending on their convictions and identities, including organic addictive properties such as magic mushrooms, marijuana, hash, bhang, opium, heroin, cocaine, alcohol, and also synthetic drugs such as LSD, Ecstasy, Prozac, Ice, and sometimes even sedatives. Undoubtedly, addiction, prostitution and trafficking of women and children, is indirectly and directly encouraged by some cults and sects.

26) **Gender** -- Discrimination of women is the core of most of the religious teaching and preaching. There are many smart religious groups, sects and cults that use women for the promotion of their dogmatized goals. Prostitution in the name of religions, cults and sects is expanding everyday. In some religions, women are not allowed to deny a man sex, if he asks for it, provided he comes from the same religion. You serve your body for the sake of religion. A man in Tibetan Buddhism, including monks and lamas, have the right to recruit a young attractive woman (consort) for sexual Buddhist practices for the purpose of reaching immediate enlightenment. She should be other than your spouse/wife. Devadasi practitioners offer girls to the temples; a glaring example of gender abuse in the name of religion.

27) **Betraying peace** -- Religions, sects and cults are not only warmongers, but they also ruin the possibility of peace by segregating humans from each other. Every religion is nothing but a dangerous weapon of divisiveness. Most of them use the biopsychic bomb called identity ("I am right", "I am great", "They are

worthless", "They are misguided") for eliminating peace.

28) **Exploitations** -- Undoubtedly, most religions, cults and sects are busy talking against the manipulation and exploitation of various kinds of nature. You don't have to look at history, but just go to a nearby religious center and stay there for a while. Then you will understand how they act as a predator on their own followers and believers whom they promise to give protection. There are many countries in the 21st century, both developed and undeveloped, where people pay taxes to the hierarchy of religion. These exploitations are not only restricted to religious activities, but also extends to the physical, mental, emotional, economical, social, cultural, legal, educational, historical, and so on.

29) **Exploiting guilt** -- Invariably, almost all religions, cults and sects increase their money-power by abusing the followers who admit their sins. You can remove your sins and criminal offenses by offering a good amount of your corrupt money to the religion concerned, thus many devoted believers and followers commit the crime with the intention that they can easily get rid of their sins in exchange. Religions, sects and cults, sanctify crime and in return the money is used either for conversion or some other orgy of the hierarchy.

30) **Money laundering** -- All over the world leaders and priests of religions, cults and sects have amassed so much money that they use their money-power in clandestine activities to protect their image and tenure.

31) **Tampering** -- The dangerous contributions of religions, sects and cults is tampering with the progress of humanity by distorting the facts of history, i.e. art, culture, literature, dates, happenings, names, reasons, objectives, so that the next generation is deprived of truth. They also fabricate almost everything to upkeep their image. i.e. the real history of colonialism in Africa, Australia, America and many parts of Asia is not available to the emerging generations and the facts and figures of gypsies killed during the holocaust is more or less eliminated. The list goes on endlessly.

We can go on making volumes of lists, but hopefully this little discussion will provide enough light to expand your views, helping you to examine the actual nature of religion. This article is not written against any particular faith, group, religion, sect or cult, but rather is written with open-heartedness to add a new prospective for a better understanding of ourselves.

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